

May 19, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-026

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region IV staff on this date.

Facility

TXU Energy
Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station Unit 2
Docket: 50-446
License NPF-89

Licensee Emergency Classification

☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: SHUTDOWN OF GREATER THAN 72 HOURS

DESCRIPTION: At 2:52 a.m. (CDT) on May 15, 2003, Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES), Units 1 and 2, experienced automatic reactor trips following a loss of power on the 345 kV grid.

A fault on the Parker 345 kV line was not isolated due to a failure of the primary and backup ground relaying, resulting in the fault being supplied from the East bus, West bus, and CPSES generation. The remaining 345 kV feeds tripped via their own protective schemes. One of two 138 kV feeds tripped due to a carrier failure in an offsite switchyard. As a result of these events, the only source of offsite power to CPSES was the remaining 138 kV feed supplying the vital buses for both Units 1 and 2. The four emergency diesel generators did not autostart but remained operable throughout the event. All rods fully inserted and the emergency core cooling system was not actuated. Both units were in natural circulation cooling and stable following the event. The auxiliary feedwater systems started on both units to maintain steam generator levels. Reactor coolant temperature was controlled using the steam generator atmospheric relief valves.

Following troubleshooting, repairs, and testing of offsite power system components, CPSES Unit 1 was restarted and synchronized to the grid at 12:38 p.m. on May 18. Equipment problems identified on the Unit 2 exciter rotor and a feedwater heater tube leak have delayed the startup of Unit 2 until repairs can be made.

The state of Texas has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the Headquarters Operations Officer at 4:27 a.m. on May 15, 2003. Region IV has informed the EDO, NRR, and PA.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 9 a.m. on May 19, 2003.

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